Re-launching of DD News Channel

521. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are re-launching Doordarshan news Channel-DD News;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for closing the channel; and

(c) the reasons for re-launching it?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that there is no proposal to start a News Channel.

(b) The channel was closed down due to its high cost and low visibility.

(c) Does not arise.

Survey on Social and Economic impact of F.M. Stations

522. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that F.M. Stations are weaning away viewers fromTV channels;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to gauge its social and economic impact; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No authentic survey has so far been conducted in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

Plan to telecast social awareness messages

523. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether DD plans to telecast social awareness messages on the population problem on its national and regional networks;